



File Code: 2230

Date: May 28, 2002

Jimmie and Maria Dowton
HC 62, Box 2320
May ID 83253

Dear Jim and Maria,

This letter will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions for the Morgan Creek C&H Allotment for the 2002 grazing season, and should be considered as an extension of the Allotment Management Plan.

I. APPROVED USE [\(decided to run after aoi was mailed out, did not take non-use\)](#)

PERMITTEE	No. & Class	Permit Type	Season of use
Jim Dowton	194 cow/calf	term	non - use
Delbert Hughes	416 cow/calf	term	non - use
Chamberlain Ranch	195 cow/calf	term	6/1 – 10/31
Jim Martiny	180 cow/calf	term	6/1 – 10/31
O'Neal Ranches	208 cow/calf	term	6/1 – 10/31
Verl Jones	51 horses	term	6/1 – 10/31
	32 cow/calf	term	non - use

II. PASTURE ROTATION SEQUENCE

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>SEASON</u>
Unit 1	6/1 – 8/2 *
Unit 2	8/3 – 10/31 *
Unit 3	Rest

* Dates when livestock will be present in these pastures will vary with water and forage availability, plant growth rates and grazing standards such as stubble heights.

III. USE STANDARDS

Minimum stubble standards of 4 inches have been established for key riparian areas on the Morgan Creek Watershed of the Morgan Creek Allotment. Minimum stubble standards of 6 inches have been established for Opal Creek and Moyer Creek watersheds. The remainder of the key areas within the Panther Creek watershed will have a minimum stubble standard of 4 inches. The final measurement will be taken on these areas at the end of the growing season.



IV. PERMITTEE MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Livestock distribution and salting

1. After livestock enter a pasture they should be moved to encourage use on areas that normally tend to be under utilized.
2. Efforts should be made throughout the season to move livestock out of riparian areas and onto adjacent uplands to encourage utilization of forage away from stream corridors.

B. Permittee Monitoring

1. Permittees should monitor to determine when grazing standards are being met. When use standards are met, livestock should be moved to the next unit or off of the Forest.

C. Permittee Maintenance

- a. All improvement maintenance within a planned grazing unit must be complete prior to livestock entering the unit. Please pay careful attention to fence maintenance and livestock distribution to ensure cattle do not utilize the Eddy Basin Allotment.
- b. External allotment boundary fences must be maintained prior to scheduled use periods for both Morgan Creek livestock and those livestock from the neighboring allotment. Please insure that fence maintenance between the Morgan Creek and Hat Creek Allotments is complete prior to June 20.

V. BILLING INFORMATION

A. Grazing fees for the 2002 season are \$1.43 per head/month. Fees must be received in the San Francisco receiving office before the livestock are allowed onto the forest. To assure clearance, your fees must be paid at least five days before livestock are scheduled to enter the allotment. Attach your check or money order to the white copy of your billing and mail to the indicated San Francisco address.

VI. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Due to the unpredictability of precipitation patterns and the drier than normal spring conditions, there is the distinct possibility of lower than normal forage production and lack of adequate water sources to effectively distribute livestock. It is therefore recommended that you develop contingency plans in the event that livestock are removed from the Forest prior to the permitted off date.

- B. Monitoring efforts on the allotment may include collection of the following information, although this list is not all-inclusive.
 - a. Stubble Height – A stubble standard of 4 inches has been adopted on all streams except those within the Opal Creek and Moyer Creek watersheds, which each have a 6-inch standard. These standards will be monitored at selected key areas.
 - b. Bank Stability - Bank stability monitoring information will be collected on the allotment in conjunction with depth fines information. Qualitative observations of bank disturbance will be made at key areas and observations of bank breakdown, slumping, fractures, or vertical and eroding banks may be used as cues to move cattle to other grazing areas.
- C. Enclosed is a Year End Grazing Report, which helps us ascertain the cost of managing your livestock on federal rangelands and track actual use. Please fill this out and mail it back to us at the end of the season. Grazing fee credits cannot be processed without this completed form.
- D. We will emphasize pasture integrity and having all livestock in the appropriate units through our monitoring efforts this year.
- E. There is the possibility of conducting a prescribed fire in the Silver Creek drainage this spring if conditions permit. If this burn occurs, livestock would not be allowed into the burn area during this grazing season.
- F. Work on the livestock handling facilities on Morgan Creek Summit must be completed prior to allowing cattle to be moved into the Panther Creek drainage.
- G. A core bull trout spawning area has been identified on main Panther Creek between Weasel and Otter Creeks. It will therefore be necessary to prevent livestock access to this portion of the stream after September 1 (when spawning typically occurs). On September 1, all three gates from the Weasel Creek gathering facility to the Russian Exclosure will be closed and remain closed until all livestock are removed from the Prairie Basin Unit. No cattle will be allowed within this area unless accompanied by a rider. All livestock will be removed from the remainder of the Prairie Basin Unit prior to September 15, which is the approximate time when widespread Bull Trout spawning will occur in occupied habitat within the unit.
- H. Livestock should not be allowed to graze along main Morgan Creek after September 15, due to Bull Trout spawning considerations.
- I. A non-compliance letter was issued to some members of the Association on March 4, 2002. This letter outlines specific actions which need to occur during the 2002 grazing season to fully comply with the terms and conditions of your Term Grazing Permit, and to avoid the possibility of permit actions in the form of suspension of

grazing privileges. Please refer to this letter for detailed information and feel free to contact our office if there are any questions.

Prior approval by the District Ranger is required to amend or change these Annual Instructions. If you have any questions concerning this, please call. We are looking forward to the grazing season and hope it will be productive.

Sincerely,

/s/ *Mike Foster*

MIKE FOSTER
Acting District Ranger

Enclosure

cc: Peggy Redick
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Terry Hershey, Cobalt RD